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LIBRARY HISTORY TRIVIA, KENTUCKY STYLE

BY REINETTE F. JONES

SHAVER ENGINEERING LIBRARY UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



Florence Ridgway wrote a history of Kentucky libraries in 1940, entitled *Developments in Library Service in Kentucky*.¹ The Kentucky Library Association sponsored the work and Ridgway was a member of the organization's Publicity Committee. The group was charged with chronicling the state's library advancement. Ridgway's book and other sources have been used to put together the following information. Answers to the questions are not available electronically, so move away from the computer and test your knowledge the old-fashioned way, with the paper source.

According to the American Library Association World Library Timeline, the first library on the North American continent was located in Mexico in 1536 at the Franciscan Colegio Imperial de Santa Cruz de Tlatelolco.² The first Kentucky library arrived more than two centuries later. The collection was a gift of books delivered to the Transylvania Seminary from across the Allegheny Mountains around 1784. Once the books arrived it was felt that more books were needed, so the Lexington Library Company was formed and shares were sold in order to raise money. Library companies were in vogue during this period, Benjamin Franklin had helped to organize the Library Company of Philadelphia in 1731. Subscription libraries were scholarly libraries. The library in Kentucky was available to subscribers and to the students at Transylvania Seminary. By 1800, the Seminary Library had been renamed the Lexington Library and the collection was located on the second floor of a drug store. The druggist was the librarian. What was his name?³

In 1805, a professional meeting of Booksellers and Printers was hosted in Lexington, Kentucky. The president of the organization and John Breckinridge had helped to lead the development of the Transylvania Library.

Who was the Booksellers and Printers president?⁴ Circulating libraries developed from the novel becoming a popular literary form. Recreational literature was second to scholarly literature. Education, reading, and access to books in general were privileges that were available to those who could afford the costs.

Outside the U.S., Argentina established its first public library in 1810. Within the U.S., Pennsylvania established the first state library in 1816, which was the same year that the Congressional Library in Washington, D.C. was opened to the public. During the War of 1812 the British burned the Capitol building, and thus destroyed the Library of Congress in 1814. Thomas Jefferson sold Congress his private book collection to restart the library. The Kentucky General Assembly approved an Act for a State Library in 1820 and a state librarian in 1833. The librarian, a judge's nephew, was given a budget of \$5000 to make purchases over the next five years. The librarian remained with the library for seventeen years and later returned for another six years. Who was the librarian?⁵ An act for numbering the books in the State Library was approved in 1838 (the Dewey Classification would not be published until 1876). The collection was made up of mostly legal publications.

The Boston Pilot, a newspaper company, had the first newspaper library in 1831. There was not a newspaper library in Kentucky, but in 1838 the Kentucky Historical Society was founded and the collection was to contain one copy of all books published by the state. In 1850 Great Britain passed its Public Libraries Act, and the action is thought to have had an international impact toward the establishment of legal provisions for permanent libraries. The following year, 1851, the Kentucky Historical Society librarian sought to add to the collection all newspapers published in Kentucky. What was the librarian's name?⁶

Kentucky colleges and schools built before the Civil War had libraries, though most did not have sufficient materials to meet the needs of the students. Two of the largest libraries in the state belonged to the medical schools, one in Louisville, and one in Lexington. Centre College's library opened in 1862. The structure had been paid for by a \$5000 donation. Who was the donor?⁷

At the end of the Civil War, Berea College opened its doors to an integrated student body and provided the first library service to Kentucky African American students and to white students from the mountain areas of the state. In the 1890s, Berea students would take collections of books to the schools where they taught. This was not the first traveling book service in Kentucky. In 1870, there were more than 33,000 Sunday school libraries throughout the United States, and in Louisville, Kentucky, a Sunday school class formed the Monday Afternoon Club in 1887. The club began the traveling book project, which consisted of wooden boxes filled with books that were delivered to people who lived in the mountains of Kentucky. Who was the teacher and founder of the Monday Afternoon Club?⁸

Melville Dewey started the first school of librarianship at Columbia in 1887. He has also been credited for dispatching the first traveling public library collection in 1892 in New York. Australia had begun its traveling library in 1859. In Kentucky, the traveling book project was taken over by the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs in 1896. The organization also helped establish free public libraries for whites in Kentucky cities. The Women's Clubs and the libraries were segregated, though not by law. Free public libraries in cities were first approved by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1902 and there was no mention of race. Kentucky had some of the first Colored libraries, which were established when cities began receiving funding for public libraries from Andrew Carnegie. What two cities received the first Carnegie library grants in Kentucky?⁹

A total of 17 cities in Kentucky received Carnegie library grants, but due to a typo in an earlier report, it has continued to be reported that 27 cities in Kentucky received grants. Two of the cities were forced to decline their grants because 10% of the Carnegie library cost would have been too much of a burden for taxpayers. What were the names of the two cities?¹⁰ One of the Kentucky Carnegie libraries was desegregated,

possibly as early as 1900, and it was the first to do so in the South. Where was the library located?¹¹

Berea College became a segregated school in 1904, as the Day Law was being challenged in the courts (it was upheld in 1908). Also in 1904, a Kentucky city built a Carnegie Library for whites and a second structure for African Americans. It was the first public library structure in the United States exclusively for African Americans. Where was the library located?¹²

In 1905, the Louisville Western Colored Branch Library was opened, and it was the first freestanding and fully functional public library managed by a trained staff of African American librarians. Around this time, the director of the Louisville Free Public Library, Mr. A. H. Hopkins, left Louisville to take a job with the Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A man who had worked for the State Library Department of New York replaced him and this person was Kentucky's first formally trained librarian. He would also become the first president of the Kentucky Library Association, which was formed in 1907. Who was he?¹³

In 1908, high school supervisor, Mark Goodman, put together a manual for high school libraries. This was the same year that *Cataloging Rules* was issued by the American Library Association and the Library Association of the United Kingdom. In 1910, the Kentucky Legislature approved the Library Commission, thanks to the efforts of the Kentucky Library Association and the Federation of Women's Clubs. The Library Commission took over the traveling book project. The director of the Library Commission had been a member of the Monday Afternoon Club and she had also chaired the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs Traveling Library Committee. Who was she?¹⁴

In 1916, Berea College began its book wagon service to surrounding communities. One year later, the first library union was formed at the New York Public Library, and the American Library Association held its annual conference in Kentucky. In what city did the 1917 ALA Conference take place?¹⁵ What hotel served as the conference headquarters and accommodations?¹⁶ It was during this conference that the Kentucky Library Association became an affiliate of the American Library Association. The country was at war (WWI) and there was a decrease in library service

nationwide. Public building was also at a low and the Carnegie Corporation ceased giving new grants for library buildings on November 7, 1917.

In 1919, Mabel Williams became Supervisor of Work with Schools at the New York Public Library. It was the first attempt to formalize library service to schoolchildren. A School Library Supervisor would be hired by the Kentucky Board of Education in 1933. But prior to this, the state standards for Kentucky high school libraries were developed in 1923, and in 1927 the standards required that high school librarians have library training. Three years later it was reported that six colleges offered library classes for whites. What were the names of the six colleges?¹⁷

In 1931, three Kentucky colleges completed the construction of new library buildings. What were the names of the three colleges?¹⁸ In 1932, college level library classes were available to African Americans in Kentucky, and the classes were continued until 1951. What college offered the classes?¹⁹ A second college temporarily offered classes for African Americans from 1938-1940. What was the name of the college?²⁰

Tommie Dora Barker, Regional Field Agent for the South, reported in her 1936 publication, *Libraries of the South*, that there were 64 public libraries in Kentucky and 58 counties were without public library service of any kind. No other state in the South had more public libraries, though North Carolina also had 64 public libraries. Seven Kentucky libraries were U. S. public document depositories. What were the seven locations?²¹ It was also reported that state and local collections were held at four Kentucky libraries. What were the names of the libraries?²²

In 1936, the Kentucky General Assembly created the Department of Library and Archives (KDLA) with three divisions. What were the three divisions of KDLA?²³ In 1938 the Kentucky General Assembly passed the Librarian's Certification Law; public librarians employed in full-time professional positions were to have certificates of librarianship. What department was to issue the certificates of librarianship?²⁴ In 1939 Kentucky had its first regional college library and it was sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority, the State Library Extension Division and what college?²⁵

Wheelwright, Kentucky, opened a library for

whites in a clubhouse on May 9, 1942, and a separate service was provided to African Americans in 1943. The library was owned and operated by a company. What was the name of the company?²⁶ Who was the first librarian?²⁷ In 1945 Red Robin Library was opened in Robin (Pike County) and library privileges were extended to African Americans. The library was supported by a community association, which was backed by a coal company. What was the name of the community association and the coal company?²⁸

In 1946, the bookmobile was instituted and six counties were provided with service. The new service came about due to the efforts of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries and the State Library Extension Division. Two women are noted for their leadership roles in this undertaking. One was a member of the Friends of Kentucky Libraries and the other was the director of the State Library Extension Division. Who were the two women?²⁹ In 1952, the Kentucky Legislature passed a bill to provide the first state aid for public libraries and that same year a full-scale bookmobile program, the Kentucky Bookmobile Project, was inaugurated with the support of the governor.

Laura K. Martin was an Associate Professor of Library Science at the University of Kentucky, and in 1953 she conducted a survey of the education levels of Kentucky public librarians. Martin found that 30 persons (out of 121) had obtained a bachelor's or master's degree in library science; 54 had a high school education; 5 had some library training beyond high school; 4 had completed public library training classes; and 28 had a bachelor's or master's degree, but not in library science. Of the librarians who had college degrees, 29 (one half) were located in one city, as were the 4 who had completed the public library training. In what city were these librarians located?³⁰

"Wake Up and Read" was the slogan for the first National Library Week in 1957, which was the same year that the Pakistan Library Association was formed. In Kentucky, the Library Extension Division removed race from the Annual Library Report forms. In 1962 the American Library Association had amended the Library Bill of Rights to allow all people the use of libraries, regardless of race, religion, or national origin. It was reported in the Kentucky Library Association Bulletin that the Kentucky Library Association was already

integrated and so were most Kentucky libraries. Who wrote the report?³¹

In 1968, the Library Services and Construction Act was amended to include inter-library cooperation, services to inmates, services to patients at state institutions, and

services to the blind and physically handicapped. Inter-library cooperation led to a trial of inward-watts in Frankfort; the system was also referred to as a hot line. What was the purpose of the hotline?³² What type of system was the hotline?³³

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